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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Plant Pest Control Branch
Washington 25, D. C.

872571

May 21, 1954



STREPTOMYCIN PREPARATIONS

This Section has taken the following actions with respect to certain antibiotics to be used as fungicides, which may be of interest and importance to you. This information is not to be made public as we do not want our actions to be interpreted as recommendations for the products.

A formulation containing as its active ingredient 50% of streptomycin has been found acceptable for the control of fire blight on apple and pear trees. We have also accepted the formulation for the control of bacterial blight on walnut trees in the Pacific Coast area only.

Acceptable directions for use would call for a dilution of two to five ounces of the formulation in 100 gallons of water. 0.01% to 0.05% of a conventional agricultural wetting agent should be added to the mixture. Spray applications should be made with thorough wetting of all foliage and branches. In the case of apples and pears, applications should be limited to the blooming period, including pink, bloom and petal fall. In no case should the formulation be applied during the cover spray period. Applications to walnuts should be made during the pre-bloom and early post-bloom stages.

Acceptable directions would also bear one of the following statements: "Do not apply after fruit is visible" or "Do not apply after petal fall." In the case of apples, pears and walnuts, applications should be made as needed but only within the early growing period specified. Treatment should be discontinued if there is evidence of chlorosis (bleaching of foliage).

The following form of ingredient statement has been accepted:

ACTIVE INGREDIENT	
Streptomycin	_____%
INERT INGREDIENT(S)	_____%
Total	100%

However, the manufacturer has been informed that if the streptomycin is present in the form of the sulfate, it should be stated as "Streptomycin Sulfate" in the ingredient statement. A substatement or other statement outside the ingredient statement that the ingredient as stated is equivalent to 50% streptomycin may be given.

The correct percentages by weight should be given in the blank spaces.

This formulation has been accepted on the basis of experimental data submitted by Merck & Co., Inc., and after appropriate consultation with the Food and Drug Administration. It is distributed under the trade name "Streptomycin Sulfate Agricultural Merck."

A caution statement along the following lines is acceptable for the present:

CAUTION! MAY CAUSE ALLERGIC SKIN REACTIONS.
Avoid contact with skin and eyes.
Do not breathe dust or spray mist.
Wear dust mask and rubber gloves.
Wash thoroughly after handling.

Another antibiotic formulation containing as its active ingredients 15% of streptomycin and 1.5% of oxytetracycline (Terramycin) has been accepted for the control of fire blight on apple and pear trees. Our acceptance of the formulation was based on data submitted by the Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., who will distribute it under the trade name "Agrimycin 100." The following form of ingredient statement has been accepted:

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS
Streptomycin
Oxytetracycline*
INERT INGREDIENTS

_____%
_____%
_____%

*(Terramycin)

The correct percentages by weight should, of course, be given in the blank spaces.

The directions for use that we accepted call for the dilution of 9.34 ozs. (264.97 grams) of the formulation with 100 gallons of water. They provided for a minimum of three applications at blossom time, including pink and two bloom sprays. No applications should be made during the cover spray period. The directions should also bear a warning such as "Do not apply after petal fall" or "Do not apply after fruit is visible." For the present a caution statement along the following lines has been accepted for the formulation: "Repeated contact with powder may cause a temporary skin irritation. Wash exposed area thoroughly with water."

Very truly yours,



W. G. Reed, Head
Pesticide Regulation Section



